



LINCOLN CHAFEE

U.S. SENATOR

RHODE ISLAND

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CHAFEE SECURES \$2.5 MILLION FOR RIPTA

Funding will be used to purchase 12 replacement vehicles

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Lincoln Chafee today announced that the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$2,535,741. The funding will be used for the procurement of 12 replacement vehicles as well as for security improvements to RIPTA's Elmwood garage facility. Chafee requested the funds as part of the fiscal year 2005 Department of Transportation Appropriations Act.

"Public transportation is an economically necessary means of transportation for many Rhode Islanders, as well as an important way to reduce air pollution and gas consumption," Senator Chafee said. "With these funds, RIPTA will be able to improve the existing high quality of service it provides, resulting in an even more dependable transportation system. Rhode Islanders can look to RIPTA to continue to be an outstanding, economical, and environmentally responsible way to get to work, school, or anywhere else around the state," he continued.

RIPTA's General Manager Alfred J. Moscola was also pleased with the award:

"These federal funds will help us strengthen our fleet by replacing aging equipment with new fixed-route buses. This funding will also allow us to expand our Flex Service, which is especially designed for underserved communities in our state's suburban and rural areas. Thanks to this appropriation, we'll also be able to enhance security at RIPTA's Elmwood facility. We thank Senator Chafee for his terrific assistance in securing federal funding for Rhode Island's public transportation network," he said.

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